

LUCY NICHOLS.

MAY 23, 1898.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered to be printed.

Mr. MIERS, from the Committee on Invalid Pensions, submitted the following

REPORT.

[To accompany H. R. 4741.]

The Committee on Invalid Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 4741) granting a pension to Lucy Nichols, have examined the same and the evidence relating thereto and most respectfully report:

This bill proposes to pension at \$12 per month Lucy Nichols, of New Albany, Floyd County, Ind.

The claimant served as a nurse from May, 1862, until the close of the war. She was in field hospital with the Twenty-third Indiana Volunteer Infantry, employed by Magnus Brucker, surgeon of said regiment. Her service and employment is not denied, but her application was denied at the Bureau because she was not employed by the authority recognized by the War Department as having such power.

The evidence shows that this claimant contracted disabilities in the service from which she has never recovered, and that she is now old, very poor, and unable to earn her living. She has no one on whom she can rely for support. She has the confidence and esteem of her neighbors and of those who knew of her service as a nurse. About fifty old soldiers who know of her valuable service join in asking this relief.

The bill is reported back with the recommendation that it pass when amended as follows:

In line 3, before "directed," insert "authorized and."

Line 4, commencing with "who" strike out all down to the end of line 7, and insert in lieu thereof "late an army nurse."

In line 8 strike out the word "to."

To the honorable the Senate and the House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled:

Your undersigned petitioner would respectfully represent that she is a resident of the city of New Albany, county of Floyd and State of Indiana, and that during the war of the rebellion she served faithfully as hospital nurse for the Twenty-third Regiment Indiana Volunteer Infantry from May, 1862, until the close of the war; that she was employed as such nurse by Magnus Brucker, chief surgeon of said regiment, at Bolivar, Tenn., in May, 1862, and served continuously until the summer of 1865, when said regiment was mustered out of the service by reason of the close

of the war; that she made application for pension under the nurse act of 1892, granting pensions to nurses, etc. The number of said claim is 1130541, which was rejected on the ground that the records failed to show that she was employed as such nurse by proper authority for the period of six months. She feels aggrieved at said rejection, for the reason stated, as she did serve as such nurse for a period of more than six months by authority of the chief surgeon of said regiment, which she believed was proper authority, and was so assured by said surgeon who so employed her as such nurse. Now, therefore, she files this her petition, and prays your honorable bodies to pass a special act granting her a pension of \$12 per month, as she is now near 60 years of age and in failing health and scarcely able to perform any sort of labor, and has no means of support except her daily labor.

Very respectfully submitted.

LUCY (her x mark) NICHOLS.

Witness to mark:

JOSEPH S. FOLEY.

Subscribed and sworn to before me the 16th day of November, 1895.

[SEAL.]

B. F. WELKER,
Notary Public.

NEW ALBANY, IND., December 19, 1895.

DEAR SIR: Herewith I send you the personal petition of Lucy Nichols, and also the petition of a great number of the exmembers of the Twenty-third Regiment Indiana Volunteer Infantry, for a special act pensioning the said Lucy Nichols on account of services rendered as hospital nurse of said regiment. The merits of her claim are set forth in said petitions, and knowing that you will do all you can for this old and invalid colored woman who so nobly stood by the boys of the Old Twenty-third Regiment, I will with confidence leave the matter with you for further action.

Very respectfully,

B. F. WELKER.

Hon. R. J. TRACEWELL, M. C.,
Washington, D. C.

STATE OF INDIANA, County of Floyd, ss:

In the matter of application of Lucy Nichols (for special pension act) as hospital nurse.

Personally came before me, clerk Floyd circuit court in and for the aforesaid county and State, William A. Burney, a citizen of New Albany, Ind., whose post-office address is New Albany, Ind., well known to me to be reputable and entitled to credit, and who, being duly sworn, declares in relation to aforesaid case as follows:

That he is a practicing physician, and that he has been acquainted with said Lucy Nichols for about seventeen years, and that he has been her family physician during the most of this time and especially during the last eight or ten years, and has treated her for the following diseases and complaints: Chronic rheumatism and chronic dyspepsia. The rheumatism affects the arms and shoulder joints, causing them to be stiff and very painful on movement; also the back and hips and lower limbs are at times very painful to move or walk, and that she suffers from palpitation of heart and chronic dyspepsia and constipation, and that these diseases and complaints render her unable to perform manual labor by reason of the aforesaid complaints and diseases and her advancing age.

The aforesaid facts are based on an examination and from having rendered her medical services for the said complaints.

He further declares that he has been a practitioner of medicine for eighteen years, and that he has no interest, either direct or indirect, in the prosecution of this claim.

WILLIAM A. BURNEY, M. D.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 5th day of December, A. D. 1895; and I hereby certify that the affiant is a practicing physician in good professional standing; that the contents of the above declaration, etc., were fully made known to him before swearing, and that I have no interest, direct or indirect, in the prosecution of this claim.

[SEAL.]

FREDERICK SOUER,
Clerk Floyd Circuit Court

To the honorable the Senate and the House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled :

Your undersigned petitioners, who are exmembers of the Twenty-third Regiment Indiana Volunteer Infantry in the war of the rebellion, would respectfully represent that Lucy Nichols, formerly Lucy Higgs, a colored female hospital nurse in the regimental hospital of said regiment, having applied for pension under the act of 1892 granting pensions to nurses, etc., and said claim No. 1130541 having been rejected on the ground that the records fail to show that said claimant was employed as such nurse by proper authority for the period of six months;

Now, therefore, we, the undersigned exofficers and members of said regiment, having personal knowledge of the fact that said claimant was a true and faithful nurse in the hospital of said regiment from the summer of 1862 until the close of the war and did render great and valuable service to the sick and wounded of said regiment, and was at all times constant and untiring in her labors as such nurse. And now that she is old and infirm and greatly in need of aid, therefore we pray your honorable bodies to pass a special act granting her a pension at the rate of \$12 per month to support her in her declining years.

Alexander S. Banks, Company E, Twenty-third Indiana; David H. Johnson, Company I, Twenty-third Indiana; Levi H. Brown, Company D, Twenty-third Volunteers; J. S. Knowland, Company I, Twenty-third Indiana; James J. Cummins, Company D, Twenty-third Indiana; John H. Bane, Company I, Twenty-third Indiana Infantry; Geo. S. Kendall, Company G, Twenty-third Indiana Volunteers; Charles H. Kopley, Company C, Twenty-third Indiana Infantry; J. W. Portlock (his x mark), Company D, Twenty-third Indiana Infantry; Chas. Edwards, Company K, Twenty-third Indiana Infantry; James W. Ashby, Company C, Twenty-third Indiana Volunteers, Galena, Ind.; G. W. Owens, Company E, Twenty-third Indiana Volunteers, Orchard, Mo.; William Mix, Company E, Twenty-third Indiana Volunteers, New Albany, Ind.; Granville Holtzlaw, Company E, Twenty-third, New Albany; John Koch, Company C, Twenty-third, Celina, Ind.; Edward Harrison, Company G, Twenty-third, Marengo, Ind.; Thomas T. Reasor, Company F, Twenty-third Indiana; W. S. McClure, Company D; Cyrus B. Lewis, Company E, Twenty-third; Lafayette Frederick, Company K, Twenty-third Indiana Volunteers; H. C. Ferguson, major, Twenty-third Indiana; John Jackson, second lieutenant, Company C, Twenty-third Indiana; Peter L. McDaniel; Peter Pope, sergeant, Company A, Twenty-third Indiana; D. S. Jocelyn, private, F, Twenty-third Indiana; C. W. Woods, private, K, Twenty-third Indiana; John McClara, private, I, Twenty-third Indiana; Joseph H. Van Meter, private, I, Twenty-third Indiana; Benjamin B. John, sergeant, Company F, Twenty-third Indiana; J. W. Hammond, ex-captain, commanding Twenty-third Indiana Volunteers; Benjamin F. Current, Company D, Twenty-third Indiana Infantry; James A. Tyner, Company I, Twenty-third Indiana Infantry; William W. Daley, Company K, Twenty-third Indiana Infantry; Norman Cunningham, Company F; Benj. C. Smith, Company E, Twenty-third Indiana; Christian Boss, Company G, Twenty-third Indiana; William Andrews; W. J. Cearns, Company F, Twenty-third Indiana; Dan (his x mark) Meisenbretter, Company D, Twenty-third Indiana Volunteers; John W. Edmondson, Company E, Twenty-third Indiana Volunteers; Thomas Clark, late captain Company E, Twenty-third Indiana Infantry Volunteers; Charles E. Villier, Company D, Twenty-third Regiment Indiana Infantry; John Sendlewick, A, Twenty-third Indiana; S. J. McPheeters, surgeon, Twenty-third Indiana; Wm. R. Burton, Hastings, Nebr.; L. A. Hollis; A. S. Baner, late captain Company G, Twenty-third Indiana; John J. Hardin, late captain Company E, Twenty-third Regiment; John A. McWilliams, Company I, Twenty-third Indiana; R. A. Simpson, Company E, Twenty-third Indiana; William H. Sisco, Company E, Twenty-third Indiana; Frank Doutaz, Company K, Twenty-third Indiana; E. P. Bruner, Company K, Twenty-third Indiana; S. K. Hooper, adjutant, Twenty-third Indiana Volunteer Infantry; Roy Allen, Company E, Twenty-third Indiana Volunteers.

